

**Edwards: Ft. Hood to Receive Stimulus Funding to Build New Hospital**

(Washington, D.C.) – United States Representative Chet Edwards said today that Ft. Hood will receive federal stimulus funding to replace Darnall Army hospital.

Edwards commented, “I have heard from reliable sources that the Department of Defense intends to announce as early as this week that Ft. Hood will receive military construction funding to replace the aging Darnall Army Medical Center. I am ecstatic that the soldiers and families of Ft. Hood will benefit from funding I authored in the federal stimulus bill to modernize our military hospitals. Darnall hospital is 42 years old, 33% undersized and cannot be adequately renovated to meet its medical mission.”

As Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee Edwards authored \$1.3 billion in the recently passed federal stimulus bill to be used by the Department of Defense to modernize its hospital system. A significant part of those funds will be used to build the new hospital at Ft. Hood.

Edwards observed, “No military installation in America has sent more troops to Iraq than Ft. Hood, and I am deeply grateful that the Department of Defense recognizes Ft. Hood soldiers and their families deserve the improved medical care that will result from a new, modern hospital.”

The final decision to put the stimulus funding at Ft. Hood is being made by the Department of Defense, since Congress did not include any site specific earmarks in the bill. Edwards said, “Last year I authored in the Iraq war supplement appropriations bill \$1 billion to modernize our DOD hospitals. That funding went to Ft. Benning, Georgia; Ft. Riley, Kansas; and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. When I authored the \$1.3 billion in the stimulus bill, I simply asked the Department of Defense to fund its highest priority hospital needs, and I am thrilled that Ft. Hood was chosen. Having represented Ft. Hood for 14 years in Congress, I care deeply about its soldiers and their families, and it has been a privilege for me to work with John Carter, Ft. Hood’s present Congressman, for the past four years to support a new Darnall hospital.”

Edwards concluded, “Modernizing the DOD hospital system to improve medical care for our troops and their families has been one of my highest priorities as Chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. Our troops and their families, through their sacrifice for country, have earned the right to world-class medical care, and I will not let up in my work to provide that care.”